

DATA SYSTEM WITH SUPPORT SURFACES FOR RECIPROCATING DATA HEAD

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A data system (1) includes a credit card type
substrate (3) and a data unit (2). The substrate has first
and second edges (28, 30) and a data surface region (26)
between the edges. The data unit includes a base (4), a
substrate support (60) mounted to the base for controlled
10 movement along a first path (14), and a data head driver (6),
also mounted to the base, including a data head which
reciprocates along a second path (10) oriented perpendicular
to the first path. The data head contacts the data surface
region on the substrate and first and second data head support
15 surfaces (120, 122) located at opposite ends of the second
path adjacent to the first and second edges of the substrate.
The data head support surfaces and the data surface region are
coplanar. The data unit also includes a substrate feeder
(16), which delivers the substrate to and removes the
20 substrate from the substrate support, and a substrate
positioner (68, 70, 82, 94, 98), which properly positions the
substrate on and secures the substrate to the substrate
support.